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January 24, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Although not a technology expert, as someone familiar with the Microsoft anti-trust case and its products, I am contacting you to express my agreement with their pending settlement with the Justice Department. From my perspective, Microsoft is hardly a big evil trust squashing the competition and hurting the consumer, so the government's case appears to have gone much further than necessary and should finally be completed. For instance, if the consumer has been hurt, why are prices continually falling for software and related products?

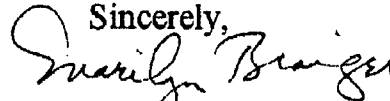
From my review of the pending agreement, I would say Microsoft has made some substantial efforts to encourage competitors to succeed in the software marketplace. They will offer the same pricing to the top 20 computer makers, while opening up their opportunities to re-arrange Windows with the software offerings and features of their preference, free of contract obligations. They will even allow other software developers to utilize their internal codes and license their technologies.

In addition, the situation has certainly changed since this suit was begun; there is much more competition in all the technology fields than once existed, and, if one can credit the business news, AOL is aggressively pursuing Microsoft and may bid fair to best her. This does not appear to be the position of a monopoly, who can shrug off competition and maintain dominance in an industry with no large expenditure of effort.

So much of the attack on Microsoft has appeared to me to be lot of

whining by companies that could have done better, and are blaming someone else for their incompetence.

Such measures as Microsoft is offering should be quite satisfactory to those who have encouraged this lawsuit. To proceed with a break-up of the company at this point would be overkill to say the least and would only destroy the opportunity for a peaceful compromise. I look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Braiger